



Victoria Government Gazette

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Subordinate Legislation Act 1994

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

In accordance with section 11 of the **Subordinate Legislation Act 1994**, I, Lily D'Ambrosio, Minister for Energy and Resources, and Minister responsible for administering the **Electricity Safety Act 1998**, give notice that a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) has been prepared in relation to the proposed Electricity Safety (Bushfire Mitigation) Regulations 2023 (the Proposed Regulations), which will replace the Electricity Safety (Bushfire Mitigation) Regulations 2013 (Current Regulations) which sunset on 18 June 2023.

The reason for the proposed Regulations is to ensure that a regulatory gap does not arise when the Current Regulations sunset. The objective of the proposed Regulations is to provide for –

- (a) the preparation of bushfire mitigation plans by specified operators and major electricity companies; and
- (b) the inspection of overhead electric lines and supply networks.

The Proposed Regulations will ensure the safety and effectiveness of Victoria's electricity networks and assets in reducing bushfire ignition risks.

The RIS considers the impact of different options for replacing the Current Regulations. The options considered are:

- (a) option 1 Regulations cease to exist (base case);
- (b) option 2 Regulations reinstated – no amendments;
- (c) option 3 Regulations reinstated, with two sub-options:
 - i. option 3A Administrative amendments for consistency with contemporary standards and other regulations;
 - ii. option 3B Administrative amendments (Option 3A), and other amendments to provide greater clarity and certainty for prescribed safety requirements for existing and new electrical constructions and installations.

The RIS concludes that the preferred option is to remake the Regulations with minor amendments and to maintain ongoing obligations currently prescribed in the Current Regulations (Option 3B). The minor amendments included under this option are limited to amendments with a proven and agreed policy rationale.

The proposed amendments seek to provide clarity on some administrative obligations and ongoing safety requirements required of affected parties. The amendments are aimed at increasing safety outcomes and consistency with contemporary practices in relation to insulation on low voltage overhead lines in Hazardous Bushfire Risk Areas. The Proposed Regulations also seek to provide greater clarity, accuracy and certainty on the inspection standards for private overhead electric lines.

Copies of the RIS and proposed Regulations can be obtained at www.engage.vic.gov.au or by phoning 136 186.

Public comments and submissions are invited on the RIS and Proposed Regulations.

All submissions must be received no later than 5.00 pm, 3 April 2023 and can be sent: via Engage Victoria website at www.engage.vic.gov.au; by email to greg.snelders@delwp.vic.gov.au; or by post to Manager Energy Safety Projects, Energy Safety and Security Branch Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, PO Box 500, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002.

All comments and submissions will be treated as public documents and published on Engage Victoria's website, www.engage.vic.gov.au unless the comment or submission clearly indicates that the comment or submission is confidential.

LILY D'AMBROSIO
Minister for Energy and Resources

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